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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY: East Germany REPORT

TOPIC: Gesellschaft fuer Sport und Technik (GST) and Combat Groups. 25X1

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REMARKS:

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 19 June 1955, the transfer of the Zentralvorstand (Central Headquarters) of the Gesellschaft fuer Sport und Technik (GST) from Halle to 26 to 39 Langenbeck Strasse in Neuenhagen near Berlin was completed. ¹
2. Changes in the GST organization included replacement of the previous "Zirkel" (circle) of the various branches by a "Gruppe" (group) prior to 15 July. The Gruppe included a leader and 14 members, three groups were to be organized into an Abteilung (section) consisting of a leader and 49 members, while three sections were to form a Hundertschaft of about 140 members.
3. Between 12 July and 21 September and 5 October and 16 December, the section leaders and Hundertschaft leaders were to attend courses at the central schools of the various branches including athletics, 25X1 motor sports, signal sports, flying and yachting. ²
4. In early September, a motorized GST construction detail of about 120 men was organized at the Berlin Main Telegraph Office. The detail was employed by order of the GST Zentralvorstand and had to repair sabotage damages on the "Ring um Berlin" (ring around Berlin) communication net.
5. In June, GST schools observed included a school in Bautzen and another school in Teterow for motor sports, a school for general training in Harsberg, a yachting school in Rechlin and a signal sports school in Naucha.
6. In June, it was observed that propaganda activity in factories and sport clubs for GST membership has been increasing for several weeks. The main argument was a promise for training in motor sports and glider flying. In connection with the last promise, Langenburg-Sued airfield on Leipziger Chaussee which had only one grass-covered runway was repaired by GST members who also constructed low wooden buildings at the airfield. ²

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7. In July, 34 GST members were trained as motorcycle drivers at the Mirov Motorsport Stuetzpunkt (motor sports base) which belonged to the Neustrelitz subdistrict of the GST district Neubrandenburg. The program included two double lessons each week. The students were trained as mechanics and received field training and instructions on map reading. After a training of about 12 weeks, the students had to pass an examination for the Class I driver's license. New GST training directives were allegedly to be issued which demanded night driving and field training for advanced students who were finally to be awarded the motor sports badge. A third training course was to include driving practice under combat conditions and to be finished with the award of the silver motor sports badge.
8. In June and July, speeches held by leading GST functionaries indicated that GST members 16 to 22 years were preferred as student fliers. Only 3 percent of licensed L-I pilots were of this age, and only 30 percent of the glider pilots came from the working class. Most of the flying instructors had been members of the Luftwaffe. Most of them did not show any interest in politics. GST work in 1955 was concentrated on training of functionaries as group leaders, section leaders and Hundertschaft leaders including courses at the central schools between 12 July and 21 September and 5 October and 16 December. 25X1
9. On 5 September, one Fliegaurf (fmu), chairman of the central flying sports club in Schoenhagen, Trebbin subdistrict, and former chief of the flying sports section of the GST Zentralverband gave a speech which indicated that 100 parachutists and 100 airplane model constructors were to be trained as instructors by the end of 1955.
10. In early September, all riding schools in the GDR were to be taken over by the GST except for the Dynamo riding school in Berlin. This school was probably subordinate to the KVP.
11. On 15 September, the VI Durchgang (course) terminated the summer training of GST group leaders at the GST tent training camps in Prerov, Breege, Scheibe-Alsbach, Georgenthal and Schirgiswalde. The following is the list of students who attended the courses:

	<u>Authorized Number</u>	<u>Actual Number</u>
I Durchgang	5,000	1,915
II Durchgang	5,000	1,504
III Durchgang	3,600	2,751
IV Durchgang	3,220	4,805
V Durchgang	6,870	4,506
VI Durchgang	<u>5,300</u>	<u>3,101</u>
Total	28,990	18,582

Up to 20 September, only 5,611 of 18,582 trainees were appointed group leaders in the GST. The V Durchgang at the Georgenthal camp only included students of universities, high schools and technical schools.

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12. Between 28 July and 11 August, subordinate command personnel of the GST were trained at a GST vacation tent camp in Prerow. The class included 1,345 male members from 15 to 50 years, and 285 females from 15 to 30 years. At least 50 percent of the students came from universities, high schools, VEB's and academies. The course was organized into 12 Hundertschaften of three sections each. Each section included three groups. Each group leader was equipped with a submachine gun or a pistol, one member of each group had a light machine gun and a pistol, while the other members were armed with carbines. Chief of the camp was one Witt (fnu) who was 29 or 30 years old. The cadre personnel wore GST uniforms with emblems of various colors. Individual training was held at group level and section level. Aim was to obtain the "Mehrkampfabzeichen" (a badge which is awarded for success in several para-military activities). 2
13. On 30 September, a conference was held by the GST at the Humboldt University in East Berlin. The meeting was attended by all GST members who had participated in the GST course for subordinate command personnel in Prerow. A curriculum for the 1955/1956 session was issued which included the following information to be obtained by each leader of a basic unit:

Age of Members

- Group 1: 1937 class and younger
- Group 2: 1936 to 1930 class
- Group 3: 1929 to 1920 class
- Group 4: 1919 to 1910 class
- Group 5: 1909 class and older

Social Composition

- Group 1: students
- Group 2: employees
- Group 3: workmen
- Group 4: intelligentsia.

Other information to be procured included data on members of the SED, DSD, NPD, CDU, LDP or any other mass organization, and of nonpartisans. Special stress was laid upon recruiting of GST members, preferably new students. This was to be done in close connection with the FDJ. 2

14. On 21 August, a GST swimming show including diver teams demonstrating diving devices was given at a press meeting in Gera.
15. In July and during most of August, no training activity was observed with the combat group Hundertschaft in Oranienburg. On 30 August, a VP sergeant held a 90-minute instruction on the 1944 type submachine gun. Fully able-bodied combat group members were assigned to an "ueberbetriebliche" (comprising men from more than one enterprise/ combat group, while all other members belonged to a "betriebliche" (enterprise/ combat group).
16. The combat group members of the Peenemuende Plant complained that they were forced to attend training although this was to be on a voluntary basis. As the complaint was met in early August, the strength of the combat group fell from 96 members to 5. 3
17. In early August, the combat group in the Kyritz subdistrict was organized into three platoons of 25 to 30 men each. The combat group also included a headquarters platoon with the group commander, a political instructor, a supply functionary, medical personnel and motorcycle messengers. Almost every workman who was able to walk had to be a member of the combat groups which were formed by personnel of

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the various factories. A VP master sergeant was responsible for the training which included practice with 08-type pistols, submachine guns and sub caliber rifles, and extensive march exercises. Only 20 percent of the combat group members, however, usually attended the training.

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18. In early August, the combat groups which were organized in Neustrelitz in April included three Hundertschaften. A fourth Hundertschaft was to be activated. The weekly exercises were attended by 70 to 80 members of each Hundertschaft. The training was to be terminated in December. It was allegedly planned to equip the combat groups with discarded blue police uniforms. Only SED members up to 50 years who were specially chosen previously belonged to the combat groups.
19. A circular containing training directives for July was issued by the Putschdium Deutsche Volkspolizei (VP headquarters). The program included a two-hour open formation drill at squad and platoon level without arms in the first week; one hour repeating of the first-week training and another hour of drill exercises and a 400-meter run in ordinary dress in the second week; construction of a target range with 15 firing lanes in the third week; and field training at platoon level in the fourth week. A combat group only was to be alerted on the occasion of enemy attacks on plants, sabotage and seditious activities at the installations, outbreak of fire, natural catastrophes and for support of state organs. The Kampfstab (combat staff) of the Kreisleitung (subdistrict headquarters) and the commander or deputy commander of a Hundertschaft were authorized to start an alert. In case of alarm, the command posts in the factories had immediately to contact the Kampfstab of the Kreisleitung and the VP station they belonged to.
20. Up to 8 July, two courses of 400 students each for training as combat group leaders were held at the VP school in Ludwigsdorf. The training personnel belonged to the Bereitschaftspolizei in Berlin. The students lived in the Berlin district and were SED members. In 1956, the students were to attend a continuation course.
21. In August, 16 combat group Hundertschaften were observed in the Treptow district. This rather large number was caused by the fact that this district included many VEB installations. A fourth platoon with not fully able-bodied combat group members was planned. Such members were to perform guard duty or similar tasks which did not need special physical qualifications.
22. On 12 August, the combat group which belonged to the municipal and financial administration of Brandenburg numbered about 60 members. Only 50 persons, however, attended training. Since a recent official order had stated that only fully able-bodied men were to be members of a combat group, most of the above members tried to invalidate their obligation by reporting sick or submitting medical certificates. Firing practice was done at the Goerden target ranges. The rifles were provided at the target range by the district police and returned to the police after termination of the firing practice. Two or three men of the district police were appointed instructors for field training. KVP training personnel could no longer be observed.
23. In August, the combat group of the Ministerium fuer Schwerindustrie (Ministry of Heavy Industries) included three Hundertschaften which continued their training. Activity of political instructors resulted in a considerable improvement of discipline. According to its present training status, the combat group could be employed as an auxiliary

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police in case of riots or demonstrations. An additional platoon of 40 young females was formed. ³

1. [REDACTED] Comment. The report confirms the transfer of the GST Zentralverstand from Halle to Neuenhagen near Berlin. [REDACTED]
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2. [REDACTED] Comment. The report indicates that the GST training program during the summer of 1955 concentrated on procuring a sufficient number of subordinate commanders, while the medium-rank functionaries were to be more intensively trained in two-month courses during the fall and the winter. The training activity at the GST units was probably influenced to a large extent by the lack of subordinate commanders and by a continuous transfer of young members to the KVP, a fact which resulted in an increased propaganda for recruiting of GST members. The report indicates that training will be concentrated on flying sports and parachuting. 25X1
3. [REDACTED] Comment. The organization and training of combat groups followed the directives of the Zentralkomitee (central committee) of the SED of 11 July 1955, and training order No 27/55 issued by the Chief of the Deutsche Volkspolizei (German VP). [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] The organization of 25X1
combat units with tasks which are limited to special objects will possibly outbalance the intention of individual members to abuse medical certificates to excuse their absence from training. Although training has improved, the possible employment of combat groups and their fighting power are still limited except for a very small number of units. Most units have no sufficiently trained commanding personnel.

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